

Cowlitz River Advisory Group (Ad Hoc) Draft Meeting Notes
March 8, 2018 1PM-3PM
WDFW Region 5 Office, Ridgefield

Attendees: Stan Bartle, Anthony Crocco, Hank Emond, Dan Tudor, Jack Tipping , Randy LeDuc, Jon Vigre, Rudy Salakory, Dave Passmore, Bob Reid, Greg King , Larry Pryor

WDFW Staff: Kelly Cunningham (Fish Program Deputy Assistant Director), John Long (Region 5 Director), Bryce Glaser (Region 5 Fish Program Manager), Sam Gibbons (Region 5 Hatchery Operations Manager), John Serl (Cowlitz River M&E Fish Biologist), Tom Wadsworth (District Fish Biologist – Cowlitz and Lewis)

Meeting Purpose/ Introduction

Kelly Cunningham welcomed everyone. He acknowledged the Cowlitz River Advisory Group (Ad Hoc) has not been a very productive advisory committee recently, partly due to lack of trust of WDFW. WDFW would like to change this relationship. WDFW cares about fisheries and conservation in the Cowlitz, as do the attendees. Kelly Cunningham and John Long will attend the group's meetings in the future as part of the new WDFW team working on Cowlitz. The WDFW team will also include Bryce Glaser, Sam Gibbons, John Serl and Tom Wadsworth. Cunningham explained this meeting is not intended to focus on specific issues on Cowlitz. Plan is to discuss whether we have the correct membership and how the group should operate. We want to work together as a team to solve issues on Cowlitz and try to make this a model advisory committee for the agency.

Some members thought the group had lost its functionality due to not having WDFW staff in the meeting that could express policies and make decisions for WDFW (used to have Jim Scott involved). Also, when Tacoma Power (TP) started participating some members thought the meetings deteriorated and they were not sure TP should participate or at least should only attend some meetings.

WDFW suggested Tacoma should be engaged in at least some of the meetings because they are integral to the process on the Cowlitz. TP owns the hatcheries and is reintroducing fish in the upper river among other important roles. TP understands that this is WDFW's advisory group.

The group thought it would be helpful for some other organizations to attend some meetings as needed, including NOAA and FERC representatives as well as legislative staff.

Ground Rules

As part of the effort to restart this relationship, WDFW discussed some potential ground rules for the group. John Long walked through ground rules below and all attendees agreed to them (these would also apply to TP or other participants who attend future meetings):

1. We will think the best of one another (we will not assume negative motives)
2. We will not interrupt - (we will be quick to listen and slow to speak, in the past the group turned name tags on their side when wanting to speak during meetings)
3. We will speak the truth - (if we do not believe the truth has been spoken, you should respectfully say you disagree and explain why)
4. We will be respectful – look out for each other’s interests; build each other up, do not tear each other down
5. We strive for full and open disclosure (yes means yes, no means no)
6. We will communicate with each other proactively

WDFW believes these ground rules will be helpful in making this a more effective advisory group.

Membership

The WDFW Advisory Group Handbook was distributed to the group to review, some of the main points include:

- Advisory groups can have up to 20 members
- Members participate for 3 year terms, to be reappointed or removed at agency’s discretion
- public can attend but don’t necessarily have to allow public comment
- any information from meetings are open to public records request
- The committee should have a charter that spells out the group’s responsibilities and method of operation

Questions posed by WDFW to the group:

- Do all attendees today want to be members of the Ad Hoc?
- Are the critical groups represented?
- Should alternates be allowed if a member cannot attend?
- Are there other not here today who want to participate?
- Does WDFW need to send out a request for additional members?

The attendees will be considered members of the Ad Hoc moving forward, unless they tell WDFW they do not wish to be. Greg King and Larry Pryor will represent Friends of the Cowlitz, Don Glaser is not expected to participate due to health problems. Others not in attendance that should be included are: Carl Burke, Butch Smith, and Lonnie Goble. WDFW and meeting attendees thought this is a large number of members for the group and the key constituent groups are represented; however WDFW is

open to recruiting one or two additional members if the group feels it would be helpful/productive. Jack Tipping nominated Clancy Holt, a local sport fishing guide. WDFW wants to keep the membership roster consistent once we have the list complete, in other words alternates to members on the roster should be minimized.

The group discussed whether there should be a chair for the Ad Hoc. There were mixed opinions about this idea but the general thought was this was not needed and would make the meeting overly formal due to the need to follow Robert's Rules of Order (according to the Advisory Group Handbook).

Purpose of Group

WDFW would like the group's input on a variety of Cowlitz management issues, to inform WDFW about anything they may not be aware of as decisions are made. The group's main purpose when it was formed in 2010 was to provide input on the Cowlitz FHMP process, which concluded in 2012. The FHMP process is starting up again and there will be a consultation with NOAA on the Cowlitz HGMP – both of these processes could benefit from help from the Ad Hoc. WDFW also would like feedback on how to communicate better with the public about Cowlitz management issues and decisions. WDFW wants the Ad Hoc to feel like their opinions have been heard at these meetings.

The group discussed whether there would be a need for the group to vote on issues and the general thought was this would likely not be needed.

Other topics

Some members had concerns about a letter CCA sent to WDFW with proposed changes to Cowlitz management. WDFW is meeting with CCA and TP about this and will report back at the next Ad Hoc meeting.

Action Items:

- WDFW will send out meeting notes
- WDFW will work on a draft charter for the group
- WDFW will update the membership roster and contact info.
- WDFW will communicate via email about time and place for the next Ad Hoc meeting. Requests were made by members to have the next meeting in a different location and also have it start in the morning.